



Public Affairs Section
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PRESS RELEASE

The University of Botswana School of Medicine receives up to P68 million from the U.S. Government

The University of Botswana School of Medicine will receive up to P68 million over a five-year period from the United States Government as part of the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Through MEPI, the University of Botswana School of Medicine will partner with the Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Pennsylvania to strengthen medical education, train health care workers, and improve Botswana's capacity to deliver health care.

MEPI grants, which are funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will provide up to \$130 million over five years in grants to African institutions in a dozen countries, forming a network of about 30 regional partners, country health and education ministries, and more than 20 U.S. collaborators. The focus of the grants will include education, training, and research primarily in the field of HIV/AIDS, but some activities will address maternal and child health, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, mental health, surgery, and emergency medicine.

United States Ambassador to Botswana Stephen J. Nolan said, "I am extremely pleased that Botswana has been selected to participate in this major initiative to improve medical education across Africa. While Botswana has made tremendous progress in addressing its health challenges, much work remains. It is clear that human resources and capacity building are key to greater success, which is why this program is so important. The smart partnership of U.S. funding assistance working alongside the educational expertise at the University of Botswana and two of the best medical schools in the U.S. will make dramatic steps forward in building the human capacity to meet Botswana's health challenges."

Ambassador Nolan will join University of Botswana medical students and faculty for a discussion of the MEPI grant at the temporary UB School of Medicine site located at the Bus Rank at 2:00 pm on Thursday, February 10. Members of the press are invited to cover.

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